

Submitter: R Olivas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3501

As a citizen of OR it's sad to see a narrow-minded Bill of this fashion come up for a vote let alone discussion. As a Democrat it's even more embarrassing, this is simply an example of leftist extremism. Instead of taking the safety issues and historical failures or present policy seriously, a portion of our "leadership" continues to push a baseless theory that camping where you want will solve homelessness. Instead, these policies subject the entire society to these issues. To make matters worse, it's been documented time and time again that this policy does not work. It has been implemented, in effect for the past 3 years, and has created an ecological disaster and this Bill does little to address things like garbage and human waste; it would only make it worse. This thinking also does not acknowledge the fact that over 66% of those experiencing homelessness have mental health issues and may never be able to exist unassisted or rejoin the work force. This bill would keep those people on the streets without access to help INDEFINITELY!

Pull back on the money given to homeless service providers and put it toward mental health institutions (again), eliminate camping in all public areas, end illegal vehicle operation once and for all, create treatment facilities and stop loopholes for rent control and hire more police and fire fighters! Stop looking at other states and communities that have nothing in common with Portland and start making decisions that will actually have a local impact. Transform Portland from the city of theories into the city of action otherwise we might as well change the slogan on our public vehicles from "Portland, the city that works" to "Portland, the city that's polluted and disgusting" because that's all it will be.

And for my closing point EDUCATION, our schools are a joke, teachers are at a breaking point and by the numbers our community is falling behind. Bolster the education budget and invest in our future - the kids are all we have to place our hope in and they start the change!